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## Helpful hints and tip's : Lighting Setup: version 07/08

Setting up the technical equipment for an event can be very stressful if you don't leave enough time, or if you have got your self in over your head.... Or your crew are technically challenged. It's extremely essential to have someone who is competent and careful when dealing with this kind of equipment. The consequents of bad handling of the gear (especially lighting), can be deadly. The lighting uses serious power and a lot of leads and connectors. Including lamps which blow easily if not handled with care.

When you first get to the venue, double check the site and best access. Check what kind of power is available and how far away from where the stage is. (it sounds an obvious thing, but time and time again, I have turned up with the correct gear, after verifying power and smoke usage, only to find that the gear I have is not suitable etc).

If you are new to the whole setting up, I would do things in this order.

- 1 Place the dimmer pack as close to the side of stage as possible, (but out of the way as not to trip people up). Make sure you allow enough lead to get to the power socket / supply.
- 2 Run out your leads to where you think the lights need to go, to make sure they are long enough. Keep them away from where they will get damaged, (under chair legs etc)
- 3 Rig your lights, making sure to use safety wires (if needed).
- 4 Roughly point the lights as you go, in the general direction of where they need to shine.
- 5 Plug in the lights
- 6 Set up the lighting desk.
- 7 Test the lights by fading them on and off briefly.
- 8 Tape up the leads, allowing for movement to finish off the 'focusing' of them. Make sure no leads touch any lights as they will melt.
- 9 Gel up the colors of the cans.
- 10 Once everything is working and tested, get someone to stand on stage and in position for you to focus the lights at them.

Using a smoke machine to help focus the lights is very useful as it is easier to see the beams and where they are pointing. Make sure the lights aren't pointing into the audiences eyes. (unless they are crowd blinders). Check this by sitting in the audience seats when the lights are on. **NOTE** : Check if there are any alarms in the building which may be set off by the smoke.

It is a good idea when patching, to have colors paired the same and in mirror image. So when you use the color, it is a solid color, not mixed with a couple of colors. Likewise if you slide a slider and two lights turn on on the same side of the stage (unless its for a 'special situation'- i.e lighting up a lead singer, or guitarist etc). It looks un even. If you had ten lights on stage spaced out along the back, its best to have 1 and 10 paired together and 2 and 9 etc. Make sure you don't over load each channel.

Useful reading :

**The circuits / fuses keep on tripping** found on **Helpful hints and tip's : Basic problems**

**Dimmer and DMX Guide** found on **Helpful hints and tips :Lighting setup**

**Basic Problems:** found on: **Helpful hints and tips**

Obviously the more experience you have, the more creative you can be. The above is more of an idea 'to get you started'.